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WHEN CUPID PLAYS HIS PART.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,
BY T. C. HARBAUGH.

Before the footlights every night
An actor, all unseen,
Receives his cue from roguish eye,
And plays his role, I ween;
He's busy, too, between the acts
When'er he finds a heart,
And life becomes a drama keen
When Cupid plays his part.

He needs no prompter, I am sure,
The manager can go,
Across the stage unerring fly
The arrows from his bow;
The drama's all the people see,
They watch it from the start,
And never catch the look which tells
How Cupid plays his part.

No matter what is on the boards,
He's always in the play,
So many are his cunning arts,
He will not keep away;
And if perchance he spoils a scene
He takes it ne'er to heart,
But heals the wounds the critics give,
For that, too, is his part.

The world applauds the latest star,
And hastens her to greet;
It seldom sees the tribute which
She lays at Cupid's feet.
Aye, after all, there's nothing like
The conquest of a heart,
And life's long drama never lags
When Cupid plays his part.

THE ROMANCE OF AN ACTRESS

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,
BY HUBERT R. EGERTON.

[CONTINUED.]

"There's the makings of a fine actress gone all to wreck and ruin—all to ruin, sir," said he; "and all on account of careless early training—an insecure footing in her art. Now, if she had taken her early apprenticeship in the hard work and good solid school of this sort of theatre we have here, she would have had something substantial to fall back on when her simpers and gasps and fine little tricks would no longer pay. Well, well—it can't be helped, but it's too bad—too bad."

And that was the judgment cast after the famous Vera Zapponi as she left the stage, never to return again.

The appointed Monday night after Vera's engagement had closed found the American true to his bargain. He was on hand at the little cottage, prepared, apparently, to carry out his comrade's scheme.

"Now you shall hear," said the Italian, gleefully rubbing his hands; "You shall hear all, for my power is great tonight and her will is conquered completely. She shall tell all—she shall sing it like a bird, and you shall tell me it is the most wonderful you ever did hear."

On this he drew back the curtains that shut off the adjoining apartment, and revealed a luxuriously furnished boudoir, lighted by a shaded lamp which stood on a small gilded table in the middle of the room. On a silken lounge reclined Vera. She half arose at the drawing aside of the curtains, but fell back with a sigh at the command of Antonio. He ushered in the tall American, who had not removed his long ulster, although it was dripping from the drizzle of the stormy night, and he still carried in his hand a broad slouch hat of felt. He seated himself gravely in a corner of the room where the shadows were darkest and seemed to cloak him completely from observation. The woman looked at him with a fixed stare, but did not seem to recognize him.

It would have been apparent to the most casual observer that she was in a deep trance, and that her will, steel chained and fettered, was struggling in vain to free itself. As the Italian approached and laid his hand upon her head, all resistance seemed to cease, and though the wild, fixed stare did not leave her eyes, her muscles relaxed, and a smile broke through her look of pain. She settled back into a position of ease, and took on an air of comfort.

"You are well and strong," said the Italian, sternly. She smiled in answer, and he went on: "I have brought a friend who shall hear your story. You shall tell him and he shall be entertained. Go on—tell all, for he has come to hear and will not grow weary. It was five years ago, you say—"

Thus commanding, and even beginning her story, Antonio settled himself easily in his chair, and distant only a few feet from the lounge on which she lay, fixed his glowing eyes on hers, and waited. She arose to a half reclining posture, and leaning on her elbow, began as if she were detailing a story to a merry company instead of betraying a long treasured secret in the presence of these two mysterious men:

"Yes, it is something over five years ago that I was 'starring' in America, and the strangest of adventures befell me. When I arrived in New York my maid grew ill, and receiving some unpleasant news from home, insisted on returning; so I was obliged to advertise for a young woman to replace her. There came to me a neat looking, dark eyed young girl, with a lovely face and girlish figure. She spoke with a decided Spanish accent, and I was not surprised when she told me she was the daughter of a Mexican, a rich ranchero, from whose home she had fled to meet a lover, an American, who had been sojourning in her country. She was awaiting his coming in New York, but he had been delayed, and she had found it necessary to seek some work that might support her while she waited.

"I took an interest in the girl, although she betrayed, by a certain occasional coarseness of manner, that her nature had not been as gentle, nor her education as thorough, as a millionaire father might be supposed to secure for an only child. She seemed pre-occupied, too, most of the time, and made many blunders during the month she was in my service. I bore with her, however, for, as I said before, I sympathized with her, and although I

knew she was deceiving me in her story of her life, I was quite willing to allow her to treasure her own secret, without adding another pang by prying into the real causes of her woe. Another peculiarity of hers which I bore with was her refusal to live at the hotel with me. She preferred her old lodgings in some obscure quarter of the city, and, retiring thither every night at a late hour, returned each morning very early; so she was enabled to give me all the attention I could demand. Her explanation was, she feared that, living at the hotel, she might be traced more easily by her late father's agents, who were scouting the country for her.

"The New York engagement of one month had been intended as the close of our American tour,

covered that with her had disappeared a roll of American bank notes amounting to something like a hundred pounds. She might have taken much more, for all my money and jewels were at her hand, but she seemed to have selected exactly this sum, as if it were the amount she needed for a special purpose. I was very angry at her dishonesty, and, although it was within a few hours of the time when the train drawing my special car was to start, I felt inclined to summon an officer and have the thief run down. This idea was speedily abandoned, though, on the reflection that I should be delayed and lose the fruits of my engagement. I locked the last of my boxes and summoned the porter to take them away. When that sturdy person had

There was something so human and reassuring in his sturdy figure and manly voice that I felt safe under his guidance, and all my fears fled. The house, what I could see of it in the faint light of the street lamps, was a dingy tenement with grimy approaches. The single stone step by which its hallway was entered was obstructed by a cluster of noisy, half clad children, and frowny mothers with squalling infants in their arms. Twenty shrill voices volunteered the information that the foreign actress (that's what they called Juanita) lived in a back room three flights up; so I bravely made my way along a narrow hall, dark and slimy, and up muddy staircases to the third floor. There I paused at the door of the rear apartment and tapped lightly.

rather than that of a thief, and I felt intimidated. My pity for the poor creature grew as I saw the piteous expression to which she had been worked. She went on nervously: 'Come—call them—let them take me to prison. But the money, no!'

"I replied soothingly: 'Poor child! I have no officers awaiting my signal. I have come here alone, as your friend, not to demand the stolen money nor to punish you for your act. I come to drag you from danger, to ask you to return to my service—to go this moment from these surroundings of squalor and crime.'

"She looked at me incredulously for a moment, and tears glistened in her eyes. She seemed on the point of casting herself into my outstretched arms, when some overwhelming thought seemed to possess her, and nerve her up again to her former state. She dashed the tears away and boldly returned my gaze. The tears seemed to have washed from her eyes the fierce fidgets gleam that had shone in them before, and they now looked softly into mine as she said: 'Madame, you are good, always good—so kind to me. I am covered with shame before you. But I may not tell you all, I may not avail of your kindness. I may not give you back what I have robbed you of. Some day I will restore it to you, although I labor a lifetime to do it. Now go—leave me to my destiny, and think of me no more.'

"She pointed to the door, and I was mechanically obeying, crossing before her to reach the exit, glad, indeed, to find a free escape offered me from this trap, when a change came over her countenance—an eager, strained look. She put out her arm and pushed me back. The old crone sprang to her feet, and both women listened intently.

"There was a sound of heavy footsteps on the stairs—a clattering hurried step. In a moment the door was burst open and a man dashed in, closing and barring it behind him. His hair was cropped close, but his light blue eyes and fair complexion showed him of the breed of the cold north countries. His figure was tall and appeared shapely with muscular development, although he was clad in rough, ill fitting garments. He wore a slouch hat drawn down over those piercing eyes of his, as if to conceal their wild, hunted look. He stood in the middle of the room for a few seconds, panting, gasping for breath, as one who had just finished a test of physical endurance. His back was towards me, and in his precipitate entrance he had not noted my presence.

"Well, I am here. Your agents were true. They allowed me to work my way out," said he, still panting from his efforts. Juanita said nothing; she stood gazing at him in mute horror, her lips parted wide, her eyes staring vacantly at him.

"What," said he, in evident surprise, "have you nothing to say to me, now I am here? Are you not pleased at my escape, or have you changed your mind and your love in my absence?"

"The girl's face flushed scarlet, and she found her voice under the sting of his rebuke. 'We are not alone,' said she, pointing over his shoulder at me. He turned full about, with the bound of a tiger, and faced me, with a fierce glitter in his eye. In his hand he held a revolver, and his desperate air terrified me so that I gave a hoarse cry that was neither a scream nor a groan.

"A woman! A spy!" cried he, seizing my arm and dragging me out into the light. Juanita came forward, pulled his hand from my wrist, and stood between us. 'Don't forget you are a gentleman,' said she, 'even if—' 'If I have only just escaped from prison,' he interrupted. She nodded her head, accepting his interpretation of her thought.

"Explain this," he resumed. 'Do you intend to give a reception to your patrons and friends to celebrate my escape? Perhaps you have a policeman or two among your invited guests.' He looked around suspiciously drawing up his lip and snarling like a wild beast brought to bay.

"Silence," commanded the girl. 'There are no guests, no police, no one but us. This lady is here by accident. It was she who furnished the money to pay my agents, and to provide you the funds to continue your flight.' He put aside his weapon on hearing this, and resumed his former uneasy manner, but eyed me, as I saw, with a still lurking suspicion.

"Then you have secured passage for me on the schooner?" he inquired, listening intently to the sounds made by children clattering up and down the crazy stairs of the house, as if he were trying to detect some note of danger from the midst of their riotous clamors. 'The schooner sailed this morning early; the master would not wait, though I begged him, and had paid the money,' replied Juanita. 'Curse him!' broke out the man in a fury, 'I have had all my trouble and suffering for nothing. I shall be taken before morning if I stay here. I must leave at once, for they will be sure to look for me where you are. My only safety is in separation from you.'

"The girl sighed, and a sharp pain seemed to have passed through her heart. 'Yes,' she agreed, 'Your safety depends on your separation from me, and I prove my fidelity by agreeing to the sacrifice—by suffering myself, that you may not.'

"This is all very well," he broke in, brusquely, 'for sentiment, but action is what I want. Where shall I go that I shall not be tracked and trapped in twenty-four hours?'

"Juanita turned to me, hesitating a moment as if dreading to tell the thoughts that were in her mind; then, seizing my two hands, she knelt at my feet and looked up at me imploringly. Tears streamed from her dark eyes, and sobs choked her voice as she spoke:

"Oh, madame, you who are so kind, so good, a forgiving—you who have won my adoration—will you add one angel blessing to all your kindness—a crowning blessing to me, your slave?"

"Surprised beyond measure, utterly bewildered, I stammered a demand for an explanation of this sudden change in her manner, and of the astounding question that accompanied it.

"What favor, what blessing can I give?" I asked.

"Save him!" she replied, almost hysterically, clinging to my hands with a desperate clutch.

"How can I save him?" I ventured mechanically, being truly too much horrified by the proposition that I should involve myself in the projects of an escaped convict to command my full senses."



LEW DOCKSTADER.

"She noticed my look of repulsion towards the man, who was glowering at us from the middle of the room, and listening with strained intensity to every word from the hallways. She seemed to augur ill from this look of mine, for she resumed, with another outburst of tears: 'Think—let your kind heart sway you. Do not speak hastily, I beg you on my knees. He is a stranger who has been sent here a convict for no crime but that of loving me, and defending me at the risk of his life. He was transferred from his Southern to this Northern prison that his friends might not release him; and I, a weak, ignorant girl, whose only strength is her love, have gone thus far, as you have seen, towards success in releasing him. If I fall now it will kill me. You are a woman; pity the poor creature who prays at your feet that her sacrifice for love may not have been in vain.'"

"I had grown intensely interested and excited under the influence of this appeal. I raised her to her feet and embraced her. 'Poor child!' I said, 'you are mad. How can I save him? Tell me, that I may make you happy.' She drew away from me with an eager impulse, and, clasping my hands again, kissed them with burning lips; then she answered in a deep, thrilling, hurried voice: 'You asked me a moment since to go with you that I might be saved. Save him instead.' But how? I do not understand, I repeated, with a thrill of apprehension at the coming revelation. Her reply came like the shock of an explosion, driving me backward, breathless, dazed, astounded: 'Take him with you. Your husband is expected to be your companion. Let him be the invalid. He may be so concealed and not arouse suspicion. You are ready to go. Heaven has sent you to me that he may be saved. Oh, let your good heart speak! Save him! Save him! Again she sank to her knees and clung to my gown. I struggled a moment, resisting the terrible proposition, but my fit of rash impulse was on. I know not what folly possessed me, but I seemed to catch the excitement that moved others and seemed to make the very atmosphere of the apartment thrill. My foolish heart did speak indeed, and it said yes."

"The man sprang forward with the hearty exclamation: 'You're a tramp, and you shall not regret this, madam. I shall repay you with my life's work.' I was blindly enthused in this dangerous project now, and over all obstacles would I go, as was my nature, to attain success, so I spoke at once, and in an earnest tone: 'Come, the time is short. I shall be barely able to catch my train.' I passed out into the hallway, leaving the girl and her convict lover to the pangs of a fearful adieu. As I passed I saw her take from her bosom and hand to him a purse and a thick folded paper, like a legal document, which she had evidently been keeping safe for him while he was in the hands of his enemies. In a few moments he appeared and hurried down the stairs. As he came out I heard a smothered cry from the heartbroken girl, and a jar, as if she had fallen to the floor."

"My companion made haste to hide himself in the carriage, and I quickly followed, the coachman now all frowns at the long delay. I silenced him with a liberal tip, and, all smiles and cheerfulness again, he drove off briskly, catching the train easily, with fully ten minutes to spare. My companion said nothing all the way, but listened to my directions earnestly, as was proven by the fact that he assumed his invalid character very readily, and in the glare of the station lights made no haste to conceal himself in the privacy of my car. I detected in him now a gentlemanly manner, the speech of an educated person, and a knowledge of polite conventionalities that astonished me. I had no doubt he was some wild son of refined forbears, who had gone out into the world to enjoy the reckless course of many a ne'er do well before him."

"I felt a glow of triumph cheering my heart as the train glided away on its long journey to the Western ocean. The excitement of this feeling that we were racing with an enemy at railroad speed, taking part with the hunted animal and distancing the cruel hunters and their hounds! Oh, but I thought it glorious then, silly creature that I was, living on popularity and excitement."

"There were two state rooms at opposite ends of the car. The pretended invalid occupied one, and I the other. He was gloomy, reticent and scowling, and we scarcely spoke except when the waiter took him his meals, and I stood by to see that he did not forget about to identify my masquerading convict. For the rest of the time he lay on a lounge, wrapped to his eyes in a blanket, and on a perpetual alert for the approach of an enemy. Two or three days of this life, however, wore off the novelty of the situation and tumbled down my enthusiasm. His taciturnity and black scowls made me shudder, and I began to feel an eager desire to rid myself of him. I even wished secretly that the officers would appear and rid me of my incubus, or that he might drop off at some point in the wilderness, where he might rejoin the lawless band to which he most undoubtedly belonged. But he showed no signs of doing me that service. It was apparent he intended going the whole distance, and all I could do was to fret through the dreary hours until the journey's end should rid me of my hated companion."

"At last we came within one day of that happy point, and I gladly anticipated the hour when I should be rid of him forever. By this time he had confided to me that he intended leaving the country, designing, I suspected, to find a refuge in Australia, although he did not say so. Well, the evening before the last day, when, as I have said, I had begun to feel happy again, there came a succession of terrible events that turned aside the whole course of my prosperous life, and even cast a cloud upon my name."

"It was about midnight that I felt our rushing train come to a sudden stop. I looked out and saw we were on a side track, or turn out, in a wild mountain gorge. Ahead a red light was waving violently. My pretended invalid was all agitation when he heard this, and at all hazards insisted on thrusting his head out and seeing for himself. A moment's inspection was enough to satisfy him. He wrapped the blankets about his head and body and flung himself into the berth. There were a few shots heard out ahead, then a brisk fusillade and a succession of howls and shrieks."

"I suspected at once that the train had been attacked by robbers, who were intent on securing the treasure in the express car. There was a sudden jerk of the car, the engineer having, as I heard afterwards, thrown open the throttle and made a desperate attempt to escape with his train. We dragged along for a few feet with the brakes tightly set, then I heard the coupling snap, and we were still again. The rest of the train rushed on in the dark, leaving us behind. Finally there were shots and cries in the distance and then a crash. My companion said the train had been wrecked by some obstruction that had thrown it over into the deep gulch, and the robbers were looting the ruins of the treasure car. But what was to become of us, I asked; what were we to do? 'Never fear,' he replied to my terrified question, 'I will not forget us. They will return to loot this car as well as the others.' But not a movement did he make; he only shrank closer under his blankets in the most cowardly manner, I thought, and, terrified as I was, I could not repress my feeling of contempt for him. For myself, I was on the point of fainting; but I think my indignation at his unmanly conduct revived and supported me through those dreadful scenes, and made me strong to endure them."

"The side track where we had stopped was on a sort of ridge, so that front and back there was a steep grade to the lower rolling ground at the base of the mountain ranges. The brakes, which were tightly fastened, alone held us, and the idea came to me might we not escape by loosening them and letting the car slide back with the increasing momentum of its weight on such a grade. I stirred up the cowardly fugitive, and suggested that he loose them and set us free. He growled a surly and decisive negative, and commanded me, as I valued my life, not to attempt such a thing on my own part. I thought I detected in his earnest opposition to this suggestion of mine a reluctance to return even a step over the road he had pursued in his flight from justice, lest his chances of recapture should be increased, and my contempt for him redoubled. There was nothing for me to do then but sit down and calmly await my fate, and I did so with a greater coolness and fortitude than I had ever thought myself possessed of."

"An hour passed in this way, and I began to think perhaps we should be forgotten after all. But no; before the hope could become a conviction in my mind there came the sound of voices from the outside and a great clatter and thumping on the car platform. The door was burst open and three men came in, dragging after them a small iron safe and a great bundle, which I had no doubt contained valuables they had stolen from the treasure car. These they deposited in the middle apartment, or drawing room of the car, and then paused to rest, for all three seemed nearly exhausted."

"Now loose the brakes and let her slide down the grade to where the horses are," commanded one who seemed to be the leader. The man so directed went out, and a moment later I heard the scraping of the brake, and the car began slowly gliding back and down the mountain side. One of two remaining leaned over the little safe, and battered away at it with tools which he handled like an expert. The other turned about, and his eyes fell on me for the first time. He gave a start. 'Why, this car's occupied! Here's a woman,' he exclaimed. 'Of course there is! An English actress and her sick husband with her. I told you that before,' replied the man at the safe. He looked up at the same time, and, getting a good view of his features, I recognized a fellow passenger who had intruded on our privacy the day before, he said, by accident, and who had retired with profuse apologies, not failing, however, to mistake the door of my invalid's stateroom for the exit, thus satisfying himself of his weak condition. The other seemed uneasy on this intelligence, but contented himself finally with a glance at the cowardly fugitive, and a tug at the blanket which covered his face. He came out of the stateroom with a gruff word of reassurance to me, and his comrade succeeding at that moment in opening the battered safe, with an appropriate cry of triumph, he was happily diverted, and my concealed convict was safe for the time, at least."

"Twenty minutes had passed, and the car, which had been running rapidly, began to slacken up, and the man at the break went out to call for assistance. The suspicious one ran out to his aid, and then we were brought to a standstill with a great creaking and scraping of the wheels. Looking out I could descry in the glow of a small camp fire three saddled and tethered horses. There came to my ears, too, the rippling rush of a water course over the stony ground, seeking its level below. Two of the men staggered out with the plunder, which they carried near the fire, returning for the safe and depositing it there too. The leader remained behind to guard us. That he was still suspicious was apparent, for he did not suffer his keen look to stray away from the door of the convict's stateroom for a moment. At last, after fidgeting nervously about, he shouldered his Winchester resolutely, saying: 'Missus, you and your husband will have to get out of here until we have transacted our business. No matter if he is sick, he must show himself. I'll carry him out if he can't walk, but out he must go.'"

"With this he entered the apartment where my cowardly companion still lay, trembling I had no doubt, and making no sign, though he must have heard all. The train robber stepped carefully up to the berth where lay the closely wrapped fugitive, and, shaking the figure, roughly commanded, 'Come—get up. We'll help you out, old man.' He rested his rifle on his arm and used both hands in an attempt to raise the shrouded form. In a flash the swathed body unfolded itself, the athletic figure of my companion sprang from the bed, there was a sudden motion of his hand, and the robber fell back with a shriek of pain, and tearing fiercely at his eyes. His rifle fell to the floor. The stifling dust that pervaded the apartment told me that my desperate comrade had used on this bandit the red pepper he had intended to employ in blinding his jailers had they opposed his escape. The chief of the robbers, however, had clutched the arm of the false invalid. In that hand was his pistol, and the two engaged in a desperate but unequal struggle for it. In a moment the robber broke away, and, groping to a window, dashed his hand through the glass and shrieked in agony to his friends for assistance. My companion darted after him with an oath, there was a cracking sound as the stock of the rifle fell again and again upon the head of the blinded wretch. He fell dead, crashing through the splintered glass to the stony ground outside in his final efforts to escape. 'Lie down!' said the convict to me, sternly, for I had been transfixed with terror, and could not move from my erect position throughout this terrible scene. 'Lie down!' he repeated, turning on me with a murderous gleam in his eyes, 'there's going to be a fight to the death here, and you'll be killed.'"

"There was but one lamp burning. This he wrenched from its fastenings and hurled through the broken window, leaving the car in utter darkness. I could hear his excited breathing, and from the corner where I crouched could see the barrel of the rifle resting on the ledge of the window. There were shouts outside from the two robbers, who were approaching on a run to the rescue of their comrade. The Winchester suddenly spoke in three spiteful snapping explosions. There were cries of pain and howls of rage from the outside, followed by a quick wild volley in reply, which rattled the windows and splintered the woodwork all around me. In the dark I heard my companion quickly change his position, and by the faint starlight, saw him take his post at another of the broken windows on the opposite side. He had discovered the attacking party had made a detour, and was ready for their next assault."

"Again the fusillade broke out. This time some one reached the platform, and the door was thrown open. The car was dimly illuminated with a succession of shots, and I fell to the floor, covering my eyes with my hands, half swooning from the terror of it all. There was a long, long silence as of death, and then a whisper came to me out of the dark: 'Lie there. Do not stir. I leave you for a moment. Be quiet.' I heard the convict make his way, crouching, along to the door, soot into the open air. He was gone an age, it seemed to me. I was startled again by two distinct shots, then all was still again. At last I heard footsteps. Some one clambered up to the platform, and I heard with joy the voice of my misdeeds-traveling companion: 'It's all right. They'll trouble you no more, madam. Rise now; you're safe.'"

"There was the scraping of a match, and I saw the tall form of Juanita's lover. He reached up and lighted a lamp; then, leaning over, dragged some obstruction from the doorway, a dead robber I suspected, tumbling it off the platform to the roadside. Then he returned to me. He took my hands and smoothed my brow soothingly, for he could see I was trembling all. 'Calm yourself; the danger is all over for you,' he said, 'but it is more threatening for me. There will be inquiries about this, and I cannot beat inspection as you well know. Besides, this precious paper I have here, given me by a relative who died in my arms while on a tour of this country, would betray my identity at once. It must be concealed, and I must separate from you for my safety and yours. I shall trust you with the secret of this document and its hiding place. It may be you can restore it to me some day when I, a fugitive from justice, may not be able to return for it. Come.' He had deflected me at the peril of his life. How could I refuse his secret? I accompanied him to the distant spot where the camp fire was flickering feebly. There were the proceeds of the robbery lying about as the robbers had begun to assort them. Their hiding place they had provided in advance for their plunder evinced great ingenuity on their part."

"The strong stream which gurgled noisily along the rocky declivity had been dammed with stones and earth, and so turned from its natural bed, where a deep excavation had been made for their spoil. My companion placed in the shattered little safe the great legal document which he feared might betray him, and then, closing its wrenched door with great difficulty, he took my hand, and, with its treasure in the excavation. Then he gathered up the other plunder carefully and packed it on top of the first deposit. On that he placed a layer of stones and earth, and then, attacking the dam with a spade, turned the water back into its natural channel. Flinging the spade into the gulch, an inaccessible chasm, where it was lost beyond any possibility of discovery, he desisted from his labors with a sigh of relief. 'He took my hand, and I said to him: 'You are an angel,' said he, 'and if ever I get safely out of this you shall be repaid. We must separate now; perhaps for ever.' There was a tender tone of sadness in his voice, but his reckless manner soon returned. 'You will be enough to find me when daylight comes,' he resumed: 'Have no fear—look yourself in the car yard, and wait. Keep my secret until I come to relieve you of your charge, and you shall not regret your goodness.' With that he untethered the three horses, motioned the others into a wild gallop through the dark, and then, giving his restive animal the rein, dashed off in the opposite direction to that they had taken."

"In San Francisco I lay ill for two months, of brain fever, and it was a long time feared, if I should survive the shock, my reason would never be restored. I returned to England wrecked in fortune, broken down in spirit, and with all my professional attainments gone. "Then it was that I fell under the spell of that enemy who has impoverished me—that man who brought me to this. And I, with that secret of murder and a stolen treasure gnawing at my heart, struggling against his power to wring it from me, and to this I have come to this conscience brings those, like me, the accomplices of crime! Oh, I am guilty, guilty, guilty!"

"The strained look left Vera's eyes; she covered her face with her hands, as if to shut out some vision, and, sitting down, wept bitterly. The visitor sprang to his feet and stood, flushed and excited at the table. 'Bring her back to herself,' he cried, 'release her from this trance; it will kill her!'"

"Fear nothing," said the Italian, "she always finishes this way, and then comes back to herself gradually, through the medium of her tears."

"The American poured out two glasses of wine from a decanter on the table, and drank one at a gulp, as if to steady his nerves, then, catching a sight of her face again, repeated angrily: 'Bring her back, I say. She suffers.'"

"Tell me first, what do you think of the story?" said Antonio, staring him with a deprecatory gesture. "Do you not find it wonderful? Could you not trace the treasure through her words?"

"I do find her story wonderful," said the American; "and, what is more, I recognize it. It's true, every word of it."

"True? You say that? You are convinced?" exclaimed Carlo, joyously.

"Vera, coming from her trance, started to her feet with an exclamation of terror. 'What have I done?' she cried, sitting down, and burying her hands in her eyes. 'Only the truth—the plain truth—for I recognize it in every detail,' said the guest with a reassuring gesture."

"You recognize it?" exclaimed the Italian, who had not lost the look of recognition that had passed between his victim and the visitor. "How could you know?"

"How could I? Because I was there; because I am Jack Hardy, the escaped convict, the evil genius who had brought you upon this poor woman whom you have held under your spell so long."

"The Italian made a sudden pause in the middle of the room by a revolver thrust in his face."

"Go back," said the American, "and hear what I have to say. I'm a pretty bad man when I'm roused, and my record's a tough one, but I'm a man of honor still, and I have no words to express my contempt for a sneak and a blackguard such as you, Costa. Go!"

"Is this honor?" gasped the Italian, "to betray my confidence?"

"You say you put your spell on this unfortunate lady who mistook me for a secret friend of hers. You aimed to possess yourself of the stolen treasure among the mountains of the Pacific coast—that was all, double liar! Let me tell you the truth. It is not the stolen jewels—the worthless bonds and checks you took for her; but the document, that legal paper which she tells you Jack Hardy concealed because his possession might betray him on his dangerous ride over the mountains to freedom."

"The Italian turned pale—he had been flushed in a flaming passion until now—and fell back in his chair, staring wildly at the speaker, as if he had been thrown into a trance himself by the dominating will of his guest. Vera said nothing, but listened earnestly to the words of the latter as he went on."

"Let me tell you the truth, I say. You are in the employ of those who wrongfully hold a vast estate here in England. These false heirs know that there exists a will, an indisputable document giving the property to the rightful owner, Count Berkeley Crain. They would reward you with a fortune twenty times the value of the petty treasure hidden in the mountains if you could only lay hands on that paper and burn it before their eyes. But they have not dreamed that the reckless young heir is still alive, and determined to have his own."

"You are not Jack Hardy—that is not your name?" exclaimed Vera.

"No; I shake that off with the weight of my sins, and so hope to find oblivion. I am Crain, villain! I have come to relieve her of my secret and to make her my wife—to reward her with riches in my hour of prosperity."

"Let me go! Give me air!" exclaimed the Italian. "Let you go to inform your vile employers of the blow that's about to fall on them? No! A step towards that door and you are a dead man!" said Jack Hardy, truly.

"The Italian shrank cowering to his chair. 'You are weak, drunk,' commanded the visitor, pointing to the glass of wine on the table. Carlo took the glass, drained it to the last drop, and let it fall to the floor from his nerveless hand. He sank back again, starting at his fierce guest, as if fascinated. The latter continued: 'In that drink is your doom, your ruin, your death! In your veins now, conquering your will, robbing you of strength and courage. Men who are my slaves are at my call. You will find yourself harrowed, a solitary prisoner, at a remote spot in the Pacific, where, guarded by my agents, none may approach. When you return you shall find me the possessor of my own—rich and powerful. Your memory shall be weak, my crimes shall be forgotten. Then shall you live out the remnant of a wretched life as an atonement for your baseness.'"

"As he ceased speaking the Italian fell into a deep, noiseless sleep that was almost death. Going to the window, Jack gave three loud taps on a pane. There were shuffling steps in the garden, and four and the fourth dressed as a coachman, but all bearing the unmistakable marks of the mafioso."

"Take him down the river to the barque. Let the captain obey his instructions to the letter," said the stranger, who had evidently been well tutored in advance as to what was required of them, picked up the limp form of the sleeper and bore it out by the rear doorway to the grounds."

"Hardy listened until the roll of carriage wheels convinced him that they had gone, then, turning to Vera, he held out his arms."

"And Juanita—poor Juanita!" said she.

"She died a month after our separation," he replied.

"Of a broken heart?"

"Perhaps," he replied, "but now I am free to offer you, who cheered me in my cloudy days, a life in the sunshine that has begun to glow on me."

"Whether the call boy was tomaning or not, none of us could say, but true it is that the Italian was never seen again, that Vera never went on the stage again, and that the papers said she had married a wealthy admirer of her youth, who had lately come into a rich property. And so the spell of Vera's enslavement and of our curiosity was broken."

Theatrical

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

Monday Night's Openings in all the Big Show Towns.

GOLDEN GATE CLEANINGS.

The Frawley Dramatic Co. Returns to the Columbia-Theatricals Continue to be Brisk on the Pacific Slope.

[Special Dispatch to The New York Clipper.] SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7.—Marie Wainwright began a two weeks' engagement here with "Daughters of Eve," which was enjoyed by a large and fashionable audience. During the engagement here a new play, "My Puritan Wife," will be presented. Al. E. Lohman is the business representative of this organization, vice Julian Magnus.

CALIFORNIA THEATRE.—Louis James made his first appearance here last evening, opening in "Virginius." "In Old Kentucky" returns to this house 20. COLUMBIA THEATRE.—The favorite Frawley Dramatic Company made their reappearance here last evening to a packed house, producing "The Lost Paradise."

MOROSCO'S GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—"The Fugitive" was produced last night to a packed house. TIVOLI OPERA HOUSE.—"Ixion" is on for a run at this house. ORPHEUM.—Mason and Healy made their first appearance at this house last night and scored a hit. The house is drawing crowds nightly.

NOTES.—Goldmark, Conried and Herrmann are suing the Tivoli, charging conspiracy regarding payments of royalties. Louis A. Morgenstein received an ivory covered porcelain vase and a handsomely engrossed parchment scroll from the attaches and employees of the California on Christmas Day. Little Cole, Gilbert and Goldie, Cad Wilson, May Ashley, Tom Higgins, Tom F. Kelly, Stanley Sisters, La Petite Rose, and Truly Shattuck appeared last week at the People's Palace. Cad Wilson goes to Australia in March. Gracie Plaisted and her musical company begin their interior tour engagement at Eureka, Cal., 8. Les Trois Freres Mathias, after a very successful five weeks' engagement at the Orpheum here, have gone to the Los Angeles Orpheum. From there they will go directly to Koster & Bial's, New York. T. H. Friedlander made his partner, J. J. Gottlob, a Christmas present of a building lot in the most aristocratic and choicest portion of this city.

FROM OTHER POINTS.

"The Sparrow" Produced in Philadelphia—The Cold Wave Has Little Effect on Theatrical Attendance—Good Attractions Opened Well.

[Special Dispatches to The N. Y. Clipper.] PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 7.—The theatres were largely attended last night. "Trilby," at the Chestnut Street Opera House, "Mme. Sans Gêne" opened a two weeks' engagement with a full house. There was a good house at the Broad, where Francis Wilson opened the fourth and last week of his engagement, in "The Chieftain." "Faust" was given at the Academy of Music, with Nevada as Marguerite. Attendance good. "Chimie Padden" had its first local production at the Walnut, and was well received by a crowded house. Amy Lee and Frank Doane were welcomed by a good sized audience upon their return engagement, in "Miss Harum Scarum" at the Park. At the Auditorium the New Meteors had a well filled house.

Primrose & West's Minstrels opened at the National, and filled the house. Otto Eick's new comic opera, "The Sparrow," had its first production on any stage at the Grand Opera House. There was a large audience present, but the success of the opera is doubtful. The libretto is glaringly lacking in wit, and some of the scenes dragged very much, although it contains some bright music. It was very liberally mounted, and the cast is musically strong. "The Magistrate" had a successful production at the Girard Avenue before a good sized audience. "The Smugglers" packed Forepaugh's Theatre to the doors. There was a fairly good house at the People's to see "Humanity." A good attendance witnessed "Hands Across the Sea" at the Standard.

"Carnegie" had a good house. The Bijou, as usual, was crowded. O'Connell and Sam Devere's Own Company drew an audience to the Lyceum that filled every inch of standing room. The Museum had the usual crowds. The death of Cripple Palmont at Louisville, yesterday, is regretted by a large circle of Philadelphia friends. ST. LOUIS, Jan. 7.—Good sized audiences marked the Sunday openings, the Standard doing the best business with Harry Morris' Twentieth Century Maids. Although this is a return date, the splendor of the performance makes for it fame and money. "Rob Roy" opened to only a fair house, but advance sale indicates a good week's business at the Olympic. Wm. Fruttee, as Rob Roy MacGregor, received an ovation. He is an old favorite here, and appeared to advantage in his part. Juliette Corden, as Janet, Nettie Atherton, as Flora Mac Donald, and Annie O'Keefe, as Capt. Ralph Sheridan, came in for their share of commendation. Robert Hilliard, supported by an excellent company, opened to a fair house at the Grand, presenting "The Little Girl" for a certain raiser, followed by "Lost—24 Hours." George W. Monroe played "A Happy Little Home" to two packed houses at the Hagan Sunday, and was well received. "The Hunter," at Havlin's, opened to good business Sunday. The company is a capable one and the specialties were especially fine. "The World Against Her" played to good business at McCasland's Opera House, East St. Louis, Sunday.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 7.—Good sized houses greeted Eugene O'Rourke, "The Wicklow Postman," at the Bijou Sunday, when his week began. The Academy also did good business Sunday, the stock company opening its season in "The Plunger" and George Thatcher heading the olio. The Holland closed their engagement at the Davidson Sunday night, to light business, which is to be regretted. This house is dark until 9, when Prof. Herrmann comes. "A Trip Through Milwaukee," to a good house Sunday night. Last night business was good. Taking it all in all, the week opened far below the average. There has been a rumor in the local press that Gustav Amberg, of New York, here with the Bavarian Theatre Co., was negotiating for the new music hall being built by the Uppin Bros. for Manager O. F. Miller, but the company which have leased the building, and in which Manager Miller is the factor, state there is absolutely no truth to the rumor. John L. Sullivan and Paddy Ryan will spar three rounds after "The Wicklow Postman" at the Bijou, 8 and 9.

BOSTON, Jan. 7.—Despite the severity of the weather last night, the theatres showed very good attendance. Mrs. Potter and Kyle Bellevue, in "The Queen's Necklace," at the Hollis Street Theatre, drew out a large and fashionable audience. "Arrah Na Pogue" was revived at the Bowdoin Square Theatre with great success, before a packed house. The Columbia Theatre held a good sized audience to witness "Bonnie Scotland." "A Con-

tented Woman," at the Park Theatre, entertained a good house. "Little Christopher" opened its second and last week at the Tremont Theatre to an excellent house. Modjeska, in "Much Ado About Nothing," played to fair business only. "Tom Much Johnson" began its last week at the Boston Museum. It is still a magnet. "Faust" was heard, in its second week, at the Castle Square Theatre. Packed houses as usual. Keith's New Theatre had good audiences day and evening as did the other popular priced houses.

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—Large houses was the rule of the downtown places last night, particularly at the Chicago, where "The Passing Show" is playing at reduced prices, and at the Grand, where Sol Smith Russell began the second week of his engagement with a double bill of plays new in Chicago. Fanny Davenport had a good house at the Columbia, where she opened her week's engagement in "Gismonda." "Sinbad" drew a fairly good house at the Schiller. "A Gay Old Boy," at the Haymarket, opened well Sunday, and had another good house last night. The only failing theatres are somewhat affected by the cyclone show at Tattersall's, which had a large attendance last evening. Hooley's is crowded at each performance to see "The Prisoner of Zenda." This is the last week, and seats are at a premium.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—George Edwards' Comic Opera Co., in Gilbert & Carr's "His Excellency," drew a big audience to Rapley's National. Wm. H. Crane, in Martha Morton's success, "His Wife's Father," at Albaugh's Lafayette Square Opera House, was greeted by a large and fashionable attendance. Robert Mantell, in "The Corsican Brothers," at Allen's Grand Opera House, attracted a fine and appreciative assemblage. Sandow and the Trocadero Vaudeville, at Rapley's Academy of Music, opened to good business. Sam T. Jack's "My Uncle" was the attraction at Kerman's Lyceum Theatre, and was well attended. David Towers' Ice Palace opened its season at Convention Hall with thousands in attendance. The immense ice surface was covered with gaily dressed skaters, and the scene was one of enchantment.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 7.—A crowded house was present to greet Clay Clement, in "The New Dominion," at the Grand Opera House. Florence Bindley attracted two big audiences at the Avenue Sunday, and a good house last night. Macaulay's is dark until 7. The Temple remains dark until 9. The Buckingham displayed the S. R. O. sign last night, on the opening of the Reilly & Wood Co. Cripple Palmont, lately with Stuart Robson's Company, who was taken ill Dec. 12, while the company was playing here, died 6, at the Norton infirmary, of typhoid fever. Frank Marlowe, of the same company, was with him to the end. The Elks of this city will bury the remains in Elks' Rest, at Cave Hill.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 7.—Roland Reed has always been popular here, and the return of "The Politician" to the Grand was endorsed by the comedian's constituents. "Hansel and Gretel" was seen at the Walnut, and the week's advance sale is good. "Slaves of Gold" turned people away at Henck's. The same happy conditions prevailed at the Fountain, where Casman's Vaudeville Co. appeared. Harry Morris' Entertainers packed the People's. "Monte Cristo" opened to good business at Freeman's. Manager Salisbury announces Rentz Santley Burlesquers for Jan. 12.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 7.—Minnie Madden Fiske drew a standing room audience to the Grand, where she and her company made a decided hit in "The Queen of Liars." The play was splendidly presented. "Sowing the Wind" made an unquestioned hit at the Academy of Music, and it was admirably presented by a first class company. "The Old Homestead," with its familiar pictures of country life, attracted a crowd to the St. Charles Theatre.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 7.—Frank Mayo, in "Puddin'-head Wilson," opened at the Coates last night to a packed house, it being the biggest Monday opening the Coates house has had this season. At the Grand, Sunday matinee, Hanlon's "Fantasma" had a big house, and the usual S. R. O. was out at night. Bobby Gaylor, in "A Big City," had two big Sunday houses at the Ninth Street Theatre.

DETROIT, Jan. 7.—At the Detroit the Bostonians opened with "A War Time Wedding," to a large and fashionable audience. "The White Slave," at the Lyceum, had a poor opening. "On the Mississippi," at Whitney's, opened well. "Gloriana" opened to light business at Campbell's Empire.

MARYLAND.

Baltimore.—The coming of Henry Irving and Ellen Terry to Harris Academy, Jan. 6, was signalized by a crowded and enthusiastic house. The Merchant of Venice was the opening bill, which will be followed during the week by "Nance Oldfield," "The Belle," "Journies End in Love's Meeting," "The Lyons Mail," "King Arthur," and "Louis XI." The sale of seats for the week is large. Wm. Hoey did well last week with "The Globe Trotter." Hansel and Gretel, opened 13.

HONOLULU.—HONOLULU'S OPERA HOUSE.—The engagement of the metropolitan star, commenced a week's engagement 6 before a large and thoroughly pleased audience. "His Excellency" closed a highly successful week 4. Nancy McIntosh established herself as a prime favorite here, and Mabel Love's artistic dancing was highly appreciated. Next week, "The Fatal Card."

ALBANY'S LYCEUM THEATRE.—Minnie Palmer made her first appearance here for several years 6, in "The School Girl," proving the same winsome little woman who was formerly so well liked by local theatre goers. "Mme. Sans Gêne" had an excellent week's business, closing 4. Wm. H. Crane comes 13.

MUSIC HALL.—The ever welcome Sousa's Band met with the usual warm reception 6, when they began a two night stay under the management of Charles E. Ford. Myra French and Carrie Duke were the soloists. HOLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—"Rush City," with Matthews and Bulger in leading parts, kept two big audiences in the best of humor 9. Delia Byron closed a week of good business 4. "Land of the Midnight Sun" is due 13.

HOWARD AUDITORIUM.—John W. Isham's Octoroons filled the house at each performance 6. Last week's double bill drew well and gave general satisfaction. Lew Dockstader's up to date act on President Cleveland made the biggest kind of a hit. Sandow's Trocadero Vaudeville closes 13.

KENNA'S MONUMENTAL THEATRE.—"The White Crook" opened to a packed house 6. The Prince of Wales was furnished by Le Clair and Leslie, and Otilie. Sam Devere's Own Co. closed a prosperous week 4. John F. Field's Drawing Circle 13.

CASTLETON'S ODEON THEATRE.—New 6: The Keegan, Kelly and Mollie D'Alma's dog and monkey circus, and Mollie D'Alma.

NOTES.—A number of suits for damages have been entered against the Maryland Theatre Co., owners of the Front Street Theatre, by the families of the victims of the panic. The benefit performance given at Holiday Street Theatre, 3, realized about \$100. Manager E. M. Kaestle, of the Odeon, was presented with a handsome silver fruit bowl and smoking set on his sixtieth birthday. Local No. 17, National League American Musicians, elected the following officers at their annual meeting 3: President, Jason S. Donham; vice president, Charles E. Wright; secretary, Fred W. Heller; treasurer, Henry B. Schofield; financial secretary, Henry Ditzel; chairman of executive committee and delegate to national convention, George Nachman.

INDIANA.

Indianapolis.—At the Grand Opera House, Dec. 30, 31, "The Bostonians" drew packed houses, seats being at a premium several days previous to the first performance. A. M. Palmer's Company presented "Trilby" Jan. 1-4, to fair business. Julia Marlow-Talbot opens 6, for the week.

LEXINGTON'S OPERA HOUSE.—Katie Emmett, in "Ohat, an American Boy," Dec. 30-Jan. 1, played to good business. Paderewski gives a piano recital 11.

PAIS THEATRE.—"The Duke of Life," Dec. 30-Jan. 1, and "Slaves of Gold," 2-4, did very good business. A 1 next week Hopkins' Trans-Pacific Specialty Co. EDWARDS' THEATRE.—Entertainers were well received, business being good throughout the week. H. W. Williams' Own Company week 6.

FLORIDA.

MEMBERS of "The Shop Girl," "The Artist's Model," "The Sporting Duchess," "Excelsior Jr.," "The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown" and the Old Southside companies attended a supper and high given at the Tuxedo on New Year's night after their various performances were over. It was after midnight when the guests sat down to supper, and after the meal there was dancing in the ball room. The members of the Metropolitan Opera House orchestra.

RHODE ISLAND

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

of alligators and crocodiles; Lito, juggler; Franklin, strong boy; a number of young girls, in a cabbage race; Davis, the human scales, and Alexander and his new Punch figures. On the stage: Mme. La Grange

nk, the *Blue Manacans* in 13-18; Lewis Morrison, "Faust," 25; *Out Steiner* in "Villon the Vagabond," 25; "People's-Joe Put in the Star Gazer," attracted large audience, 29; Nellie McHenry, in "The Bicyclist," expected 5; "The Hustler," 12; Julie Walters, "A Money Order," 19; Prof. Lee 20-25; Gorman Brown, "The Githcooles Abroad," 26.

OSTEURED ON PAGE 716,

The indications all point toward this as being the most profitable year in the history of the national

At a meeting of the directors of the Lancaster Club, of the Pennsylvania State League, held Jan. 4, in that city, Frank E. Foley was selected to manage the team next season.

The Cleveland and Pittsburgh Clubs have arranged to offer so that both teams will meet while at the Hot Springs, Pa., resort, during the month of May.

Thomas J. Foley, who died suddenly of a heart attack, Jan. 4, at Chicago, Ill., was at one time a prominent local player. In 1896 Foley first played guarding third base for the Excelsior Club, the pioneer team of Chicago, and at one time the champion of the city. He was later transferred to the Excelsior team until 1907, when he was traded to the Forest City Club, of Rockford, Ill., which then included in its ranks A. G. Spalding, Rod Barnes and R. Adley, who were afterwards famous professional players. Foley figured for several succeeding seasons with Chicago as a first baseman, but preferring to play professionally, and then retired from the ball field. He was about fifty years old.

President F. T. Powers announces the following Eastern League contracts as having been approved for season of 1908: With Scranton, James McGuffey; John Cronin, E. L. Bradley, Edward Jaffery; Syracuse, John Freeman, John Dolter, Charles J. McCarthy, Nathan, Michael Lynch, Victor G. White, William Eagan, Nace Mason, George Bristol; Springfield, Joe Schuchert, Ted Hascall; Toronto, Frank M. Parlin, James Dean, James Casey, William A. Holland, Sam McLaughlin, E. Gray, Jr.; Buffalo, John Freeman, John Dolter, Charles J. McCarthy, William Johnson, Joe McFiey. Released: By Scranton, John P. Luby. Terms accepted: By Syracuse, H. J. Jordan, Alex. Whitehill; by Springfield, G. C. Loidy.

There are now a number of veteran players in the vicinity who would make good umpires for minor leagues. They include Dave Force, Charles Jones, Jack Nelson, Jimmy Clinton and others.

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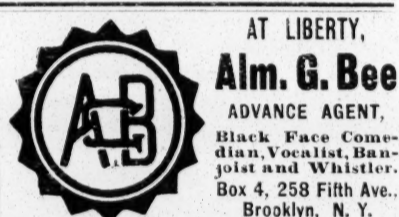
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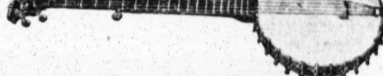
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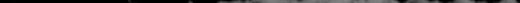
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